

GREENWorks

Ideas for a Cleaner Environment

A publication of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Concord, NH (603) 271-3710

JANUARY 2020

Say 'I Do' to Sustainability

There are several convenient options to make your big day sustainable and within your budget. From venues to decorations to catering, it has never been easier to be eco-friendly. These helpful tips are applicable to parties and other events besides weddings, too.

Venue: To cut down on energy, search for outdoor locations for your big day. This eliminates the need for lighting. Many gardens, parks and barns are available for weddings and have all the amenities you may need for your guests. However, if you are having your wedding indoors, there are ways to be environmentally conscious. For example, to cut down on driving time and miles, consider having your wedding and reception at the same location. If that's not possible, encourage your guests to carpool.

Invitations and favors: Save tons of paper by sending out save-the-dates and invitations electronically or use paper made from recyclable materials. When it comes to favors, consider giving out something reusable or plantable, like succulents or herbs. Edible favors are also a great idea, such as baked goods or jams. If possible, use biodegradable or environmentally friendly materials for packaging. When registering for gifts, be mindful of the materials used in these products. Add items to your registry that are organic, natural and reusable.

Catering: There are countless options for farm-to-table and organic caterers and it's just as delicious. Keeping your budget in mind, many caterers have in-season, locally grown products that often cost less and are better for the environment. Consider using a local vendor for your cake, too. The average wedding produces approximately 500 pounds of garbage, so ask your venue or caterer if they are able to put out recycling and composting bins to reduce waste.

Decorations: Make sure your flowers are as sustainable as possible and free of pesticides and dyes. Florists often have in-season and local flowers, which are the freshest, cheapest and use the least amount of energy to grow and sustain. Centerpieces can also be reusable and aesthetically pleasing, such as soy-based candles, potted plants or even a stack of books. It may even be possible to rent the décor and equipment depending on your vendors and venue.

Skip the balloon releases: Yes, balloon and lantern releases are beautiful, but they're also detrimental to the environment. Balloons are made out of plastics and non-biodegradable materials, so it's best to avoid them all together.

###

Sources:

<https://www.catalystwedco.com/blog/green-eco-friendly-wedding>

<https://www.theknot.com/content/eco-friendly-wedding-guide>

diynetwork.com/made-and-remade/learn-it/9-tips-and-ideas-for-an-eco-friendly-wedding